

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 9, as follows:

Turning back to FIG. 2, the position of the center of the gas inlet hole 210 of the inner cover member 21 is designated by G, the position of a lower end face of the cylindrical housing 10, which faces the inside chamber of the inner cover member 21, is designated by H1, the position of an upper end of the air-fuel ratio detecting portion 39 (which is located on the rear end side of the sensor 1 when viewed from an lower end of the detecting portion 39) is designated by H2, and the distance between H1 and H2 is designated by ΔH . Under such condition, the position of G is offset from a midpoint ($\Delta H/2$) of the distance $\Delta H/2$ toward the housing 10. Stated in other words, the center G of the gas inlet hole 210 is located at a position spaced from the end face H1 of the housing 10 in the axial direction of the sensor 1 by a second distance smaller than one-half ($\Delta H/2$) of the first distance ΔH . Reference character G denotes the center of the gas inlet hole 210, which is circular in shape. For a gas inlet hole having non-circular shape, G represents a barycentric position of the non-circular gas inlet hole. The lower end face of housing 10 designated by H1 is defined as a surface where the housing 10 is in contact with the measured gas atmosphere, and the upper end of air-fuel ratio detecting portion 39 designated by H2 is defined as a part of the detecting portion 39 that is closest to the rear end of the air-fuel ratio sensor 1 among the detecting portion 39.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 30, line 16 – page 31, line 1, as follows:

Various forms of the partition structure 24 according to the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. 19 through 23. Measured gas side covers 2 shown in FIGS. 19-23 are essentially the same in construction as the cover 2 shown in FIG. 2. The covers 2 are each composed of an inner cover member 21, an outer cover member 22 and an explosionproof cover member 23. A partition structure 24 is provided such that there is an annular inter-cover space 209 defined between the outer

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cover member 22 and the explosion cover member 23. With this arrangement, a gas to be measured is introduced from gas inlet holes 230 formed in a side wall (not designated) of the explosionproof cover member 23. The measured gas then passes successively through the gas inlet hole 220 of the outer cover member 22 and the gas inlet hole 210 of the inner cover member 21 and enters the measured gas chamber 20 (FIG. 19). ~~The measured gas then flows~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 16, as follows:

The measured gas side cover 2, shown in FIG. 20, has a partition structure 24 comprised of a flat circular ring hermetically fitted in an annular inter-cover space 208 defined between the outer cover member 22 and the explosionproof cover member 23 so as to close the annular space at a position slightly above the bottom wall 228 of the outer cover member 22. The circular ring 24 has an inner edge engaged with the side wall of the outer cover member 22 and an outer edge engaged with the side wall of the explosionproof cover member 23.